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17 October 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR: Soviet leaders are preparing an extensive shake-up of the bureaucracy in order to combat "corruption." [redacted]

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OIC [redacted] There have been persistent indications in the Soviet press that financial malpractices have been hampering the industrial reorganization. [redacted]

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USSR-Egypt:

Sino-Soviet

bloc purchases during the last year amounted to 60 percent of Egypt's cotton exports. This year, in order to increase the impact of its purchases, the bloc may be preparing to purchase its entire share of the 1958-59 cotton crop at the present time, rather than phase purchases over a 12-month period. Egypt recently increased its arms debt to the bloc by about \$150,000,-000, and presumably would welcome assurances of major bloc purchases now. [redacted]

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East Germany - Guinea: Three East German diplomats, headed by the ambassador to Czechoslovakia, arrived in Guinea on 13 October, apparently to establish the first diplomatic mission in the new republic. Guinea so far has been recognized only by African, Arab, and Communist nations. A Communist mission would afford the bloc an opportunity to exploit what appears to be one of the most favorable situations in tropical Africa for penetration activities.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Impending Shake-up of Soviet Bureaucracy Reported

The Soviet party leadership is preparing a severe shake-up of the bureaucracy, [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Financial malpractices and featherbedding, which are recognized as impediments to the industrial reorganization, have been the targets of a recent press campaign. Pravda has complained that the proliferation of bureaucratic staffs is defeating one of the stated purposes of the industrial reorganization--to reduce administrative overhead.

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The malpractices of local officials have apparently caused serious concern at high party levels and seem to have put a brake on plans to increase the powers of regional administrators. [Redacted] recent rumors that party presidium member Furtseva is in political difficulties arise from her having been involved with a losing faction in a dispute over the financial powers of regional officials.

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Khrushchev will want to put his state machine in the best possible shape for the 21st party congress in January, when he will launch what he has termed an "astounding" economic program. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]
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East Germany May Establish Diplomatic Mission in Guinea

Three East German diplomats, headed by Georg Stibi, ambassador to Czechoslovakia, arrived in Guinea on 13 October, according to the French high commissioner. East Germany, not yet recognized by any nonbloc country except Yugoslavia, may have sent these officials to negotiate the establishment of a diplomatic mission in Guinea, hoping thereby to open the way to recognition from other Asian-African states.

Guinea has several advantages as a center for bloc penetration of West Africa. Premier Sekou Toure, a Marxist, presumably has no ideological objections to Communism, although his past labor and political activities in association with Communists appear to have increased his awareness of the practical dangers of close cooperation. In addition, Guinea, with inexperienced administrators and inadequate security forces, would probably be unable to combat internal Communist subversion or impede bloc contacts with other West African nationalists.

Sekou Toure is beginning to show signs of irritation over the acquiescence of Western nations in French requests for a delay in recognition until economic and political negotiations between Paris and Conakry can be completed. These negotiations may take several months. The Asian-African bloc may soon bring the question of Guinea's status before the UN by proposing that it be admitted as a member.

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